

SUPPORT LUKE



SMASH HOMOPHOBIA!

Created and distributed by
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in support & solidarity with Luke O' Donovan
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Background Story

On New Year's Eve of 2013, Luke O'Donovan attended a house party in Reynoldstown, a neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia. Luke was seen dancing with and kissing other men at the party. Later in the night he was insulted with homophobic slurs, and attacked by several people at one time while he struggled to escape the attack. Several witnesses have reported watching between 5 and 12 men ganging-up on Luke and stomping on his head and body, evidently with the intent to kill him. Luke was called a faggot before and during the attack. Through the course of the attack, Luke and five others were stabbed. Luke was subsequently imprisoned and charged with five counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He spent two and a half weeks in jail without bond before being released under bond conditions that have drastically affected Luke's life. None of the other individuals involved in the altercation were charged.

Luke is a young queer man previously residing in metro Atlanta. At the time of his arrest, Luke was a student at Georgia Gwinnett College and planned on transferring to Georgia State University — a plan he has since had to abandon because of legal fees, medical costs, and his bond conditions. The conditions of Luke's bond caused him to move out of the house he was staying in, and continue to prevent him from interacting with a large section of his community in Northeast Atlanta.

On April 15, we were notified that Luke is facing an additional charge of attempted murder. Luke will have a self defense Immunity hearing where his lawyers will argue for a dismissal of the charges based on the understanding that he acted in self-defense. There is not yet a date set for this hearing.

What is Homophobia?

Homophobia is an irrational hatred, intolerance, and/or fear of lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or non-heterosexual people. These negative feelings and perceptions pave the way for myths, stereotypes, and discrimination that lead to the violent oppression of homosexual people. Homosexual

people raised in a homophobic society often internalise these negative stereotypes and develop low self-esteem and self-hatred, often described as internalised homophobia.

The oppression of homosexuality is a result of the hetero-normative societal agenda embedded within the institutions and culture of civilization. Homosexuality is as “natural” as heterosexuality. Discrimination plays a key role in constructing false divisions, cultivating hatred, and facilitating hierarchical domination. Federal, state, and municipal governments deploy strong anti-gay pressures to discourage others and maintain hetero-normativity. Anti-gay laws, police harassment, persecution within the military industrial complex, and work place discrimination all act to oppress the lives of homosexual people.

Suicide

Stigma and discrimination play a key role in the increasing suicide rates in the non-heterosexual community. This stems from feelings of rejection or abuse by family members or peers, bullying and harassment, and individual discrimination. In a society that discourages homosexuality, many non-heterosexual people feel isolated, hopeless, and self-destructive.

Mutual-Aid and Support

Luke O' Donovan is not the only queer person who has been violently attacked. Due to homophobia as a societal norm, non-heterosexual people are violently attacked and murdered everyday. When an oppressed person defends his/her/their self from an oppressive attacker and then has to suffer an attack by the state, support and solidarity are necessary. Combating homophobia not only requires individual action but also collective community support for those who are being attacked and held captive by the state.

Towards self-empowerment, equality, and liberation for all! Keep Luke free and smash homophobia!

To contact Luke's support team,

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